This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1   1. (original)   A method of executing tasks in a multi-processor system, comprising:

2   executing a device driver to select a processor to execute an interrupt handler task; and

3   executing an operating system scheduler to assign an interrupt handler task to said processor

4 selected by said device driver.

1   2. (original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising operating the processor selected by

2 said device driver and assigned by said operating system scheduler to execute an interrupt handler task in

3 response to an interrupt.

1   3. (original)   The method of claim 1 wherein said device driver executing includes a first

2 monitoring of usage of a plurality of processors in said system and selecting, as a function of said first

3 monitoring, a processor as the currently selected processor to execute an interrupt handler task.

1   4. (original)   The method of claim 3 wherein said device driver executing includes a second

2 monitoring of usage of a plurality of processors in said system and selecting, as a function of said second

3 monitoring, either the currently selected processor or a different processor to execute an interrupt handler

4 task.

1   5. (original)   The method of claim 4 wherein said device driver executing includes identifying

2 the processor with the lowest usage, comparing the usage of the lowest usage processor to the usage of the

3 currently selected processor and selecting the lowest usage processor to execute an interrupt handler task if

4 the usage of the currently selected processor exceeds the usage of the lowest usage processor.

1   6. (original)   The method of claim 4 wherein said device driver executing includes identifying

2 the processor with the lowest usage, comparing the usage of the lowest usage processor to the usage of the

3 currently selected processor and selecting the lowest usage processor to execute an interrupt handler task if

4 the usage of the currently selected processor exceeds the usage of the lowest usage processor by a

5 predetermined margin of usage.

1   7. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein said device driver executing includes selecting

2 the currently selected processor to execute an interrupt handler task if the usage of the currently selected

3 processor is the lowest.

1

1   8. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein said device driver executing includes selecting

2 the currently selected processor to execute an interrupt handler task if the usage of the currently selected

3 processor exceeds the usage of the lowest usage processor by less than a predetermined margin of usage.

1   9. (original) A system in communication with data storage, comprising:

2   a plurality of processors;

3   a storage controller adapted to manage Input/Output (I/O) access to the data storage;

4   a device driver capable of execution by at least one processor to select one processor to execute an

5 interrupt handler task; and

6   an operating system scheduler capable of execution by at least one processor to assign an interrupt

7 handler task to said processor selected by said device driver.

1   10. (original) The system of claim 9, further comprising:

2   an interrupt handler task capable of execution by the selected processor in response to an interrupt.

1   11. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said device driver is capable of execution by at

2 least one processor to monitor usage of a plurality of processors in said system and to select, as a function

3 of said monitoring, a processor as the currently selected processor to execute an interrupt handler task.

1   12. (original) The system of claim 11 wherein said device driver is capable of execution by at

2 least one processor to subsequently monitor usage of a plurality of processors in said system and to select,

3 as a function of said subsequent monitoring, either the currently selected processor or a different processor

4 to execute an interrupt handler task.

1   13. (original) The system of claim 12 wherein said device driver is capable of execution by at

2 least one processor to identify the processor with the lowest usage, to compare the usage of the lowest

3 usage processor to the usage of the currently selected processor and to select the lowest usage processor to

4 execute an interrupt handler task if the usage of the currently selected processor exceeds the usage of the

5 lowest usage processor.

1   14. (original)   The system of claim 12 wherein said device driver is capable of execution by at

2   least one processor to identify the processor with the lowest usage, to compare the usage of the lowest

3   usage processor to the usage of the currently selected processor and to select the lowest usage processor to

4   execute an interrupt handler task if the usage of the currently selected processor exceeds the usage of the

5   lowest usage processor by a predetermined margin of usage.

1   15. (original)   The system of claim 12 wherein said device driver is capable of execution by at

2   least one processor to select the currently selected processor to execute an interrupt handler task if the

3   usage of the currently selected processor is the lowest.

1   16. (original)   The system of claim 13 wherein said device driver is capable of execution by at

2   least one processor to select the currently selected processor to execute an interrupt handler task if the

3   usage of the currently selected processor exceeds the usage of the lowest usage processor by less than a

4   predetermined margin of usage.

1   17. (original)   An article of manufacture including a device driver, wherein the device driver

2   executes in an operating system having an operating system scheduler and interrupt task handler, capable of

3   executing tasks in a multi-processor system, wherein the device driver causes operations to be performed,

4   the operations comprising:

5   selecting a processor to execute an interrupt handler task, wherein the operating system schedule

6   assigns the interrupt handler task to said processor selected by said device driver.

1   18. (original)   The article of manufacture of claim 17 wherein said device driver operations

2   include a first monitoring of usage of a plurality of processors in said system and selecting, as a function of

3   said first monitoring, a processor as the currently selected processor to execute an interrupt handler task.

1   19. (original)   The article of manufacture of claim 18 wherein said device driver operations

2   include a second monitoring of usage of a plurality of processors in said system and selecting, as a function

3   of said second monitoring, either the currently selected processor or a different processor to execute an

4   interrupt handler task.

1   20. (original)   The article of manufacture of claim 19 wherein said device driver operations

2   include identifying the processor with the lowest usage, comparing the usage of the lowest usage processor

3   to the usage of the currently selected processor and selecting the lowest usage processor to execute an

4   interrupt handler task if the usage of the currently selected processor exceeds the usage of the lowest usage

5   processor.

1   21. (original)   The article of manufacture of claim 19 wherein said device driver operations

2   include identifying the processor with the lowest usage, comparing the usage of the lowest usage processor

3   to the usage of the currently selected processor and selecting the lowest usage processor to execute an

4   interrupt handler task if the usage of the currently selected processor exceeds the usage of the lowest usage

5   processor by a predetermined margin of usage.

1   22. (original)   The article of manufacture of claim 19 wherein said device driver operations

2   include selecting the currently selected processor to execute an interrupt handler task if the usage of the

3   currently selected processor is the lowest.

1   23. (original)   The article of manufacture of claim 20 wherein said device driver operations

2   include selecting the currently selected processor to execute an interrupt handler task if the usage of the

3   currently selected processor exceeds the usage of the lowest usage processor by less than a predetermined

4   margin of usage.